Centennial Anniversary

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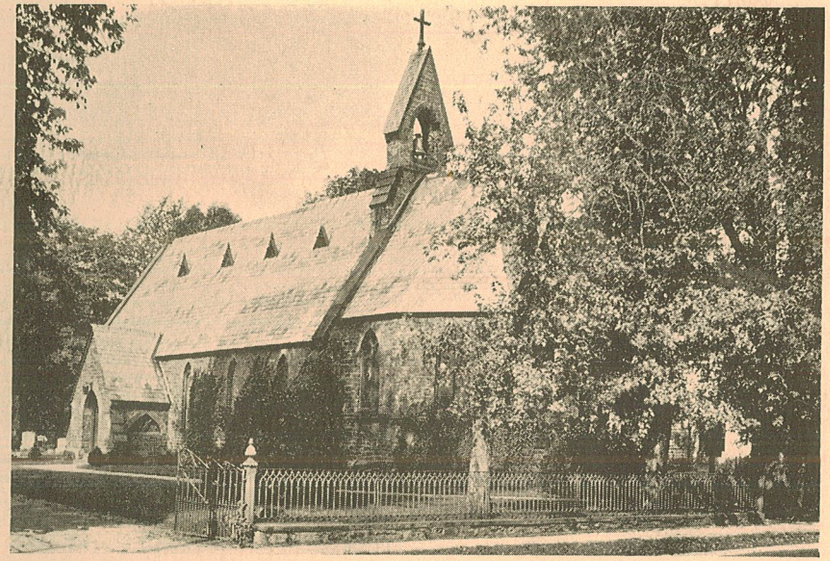
The Memorial Church of St. Luke

THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN

REV. JOHN M. WEBER, B.D., S.T.M.
Rector



October 18th-25th

1961

BUSTLETON PHILADELPHIA

Centennial Anniversary

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CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

WAYNE S. EVANS, *Chairman*
ROBERT J. NICHOLS, *Chairman of History Committee*
DONALD G. MECHLIN, *Chairman of Banquet Committee*

GEORGE M. AGER
GEORGE B. BATES
EDWARD CLARKSON
MRS. JAMES COLLIER
WILLIAM E. LITZKE
MRS. ANNE E. ROBERTS
FREDERICK H. STEVENS

ST. LUKE'S DAY

October 18, 1961

10:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

8:00 P.M.—FESTAL EVENSONG

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 274.....“Ancient of Days”

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

PSALM 84 (Page 445)

FIRST LESSON—Isaiah 52:1 to 10

MAGNIFICAT

SECOND LESSON—2 Timothy 4:5 to 15

NUNC DIMITTIS

CREED AND PRAYERS

SERMON HYMN 289.....“O God Our Help”

SERMON.....The Rev. John W. Norris, D.D.
Rector of St. Luke's Church, 1929-1941, and presently
Rector of St. Michael's Church, Brattleboro, Vermont

ANTHEM

CLOSING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

“THE FESTAL TE DEUM”.....*Dudley Buck*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 126.....“For All the Saints”

SATURDAY NIGHT

October 21, 1961

6:30 P.M.

CENTENNIAL BANQUET

This commemorative banquet celebrates not only the achievements and blessings of the past one hundred years but also the anticipation of the forthcoming decades.

THE SPEAKER

REV. JOHN R. HART, PH.D.

Rector of Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge

SUNDAY MORNING

October 22, 1961

11:00 A.M.

HOMECOMING SERVICE

Former parishioners are our invited guests for this occasion. Immediately following the conclusion of the church service, there will be a reception in St. Luke's Hall.

MONDAY NIGHT

October 23, 1961

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

From 6:45 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.:
Motion Pictures and Refreshments for the Children

Subsequent to 8:30 P.M.:
Dancing for the Pleasure of the Young People and Adults.

Music Provided by an Orchestra

WENESDAY NIGHT

October 25, 1961

8:00 P.M.

CENTENNIAL NIGHT

The Theme:

“Past, Present and Future.”

Souvenir copies of the history of the church will be distributed.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

In the preparation of this sketch of the first hundred years of The Memorial Church of St. Luke the Beloved Physician, Bustleton, the majority of the information was obtained from the minute books of the *Vestry*, a booklet published on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary in October, 1936, and other sources.

St. Luke's Parish had its beginnings in the early part of the nineteenth century when the Rev. George Sheets, rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, periodically held services in the old academy which stood on the site of the present public school. In addition thereto, some services were also held in the old meeting house across Bustleton Avenue and lower down on the hill. This meeting house was subsequently converted into a double house. In 1844, the Rev. F. W. Beasley, rector of All Saints, Lower Dublin, Torresdale, commenced holding regular services in the village. These services were often held in the building then known as Wagner's Hall in the rear of the property located directly north of Welsh Road and Bustleton Avenue on the west side of the street. By 1861, services were being held in Union Hall, which is the building located directly across the street from the present public school.

There never was any concentrated effort to develop a parish until Mrs. Pauline E. Henry decided upon this community as a suitable place for the erection of a church as a memorial to her late husband, Dr. Bernard Henry, who had been lost at sea. During his lifetime Dr. Henry had expressed his desire that such a memorial might be erected. During the year 1860, the present grounds were purchased and on September 20th of the same year, the cornerstone was laid. The parish was admitted to union with the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on May 30, 1861. A vestry was subsequently elected and met for the first time on June 10, 1861. The members of this first vestry were: Morton T. Henry, Amos A. Gregg, Robert Henderson, Charles Tillyer, Newberry A. Smith and John W. Trump. At the initial meeting of the vestry, the Rev. Leighton Coleman was elected as rector. The first rector commenced his stewardship on July 1, 1861.

On August 29, 1861, the church building was consecrated. The architect of the new church was R. Upjohn of New York, who designed many of the churches of the east which were erected during this period. There is no evidence to support the theory that the church is a copy of an English edifice.

During 1861, Mrs. Henry purchased the dwelling house and ground adjacent to the church for use as a rectory. The Sunday School building was erected in 1869 and used for the first time in January of 1870. It was constructed at a cost of $3,700 of which $2,500 was contributed by Mrs. Henry.

Rev. Mr. Coleman resigned in 1863 and several years later became the second bishop of Delaware. Rev. Edmund Roberts served as the second rector from 1863 to 1869. The daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Roberts, Helen, subsequently became the wife of the sixth rector, the Rev. Samuel F. Hotchkin.

The available records do not furnish any details concerning the third and fourth rectorships of Rev. James Barnard from July 1869 to June 1871 and Rev. Henry A. Parker from October 1871 to March 1873. Mrs. Parker is reported to have been the granddaughter of Bishop Seabury, the first bishop in the United States.

Rev. Lucius N. Voigt became the fifth rector on July 5, 1874, and served until July 2, 1877. He was instrumental in starting a mission at Bethayres, Pennsylvania.

In December of 1877 the Rev. Samuel Fitch Hotchkin accepted the call to become the sixth rector and his term of service continued for a period of thirty-one years. It is impossible in this brief summary to properly honor the character and influence of this faithful priest. Likewise, it is impossible to detail the additions and improvements which were made to the property during his tenure of office. The following are a few of the events which transpired during the rectorship of the Rev. Mr. Hotchkin:

Erection of the Parish Hall.
Beginning of the Permanent Endowment Fund.
Supplied the spiritual care in starting the mission at Somerton.

During his term as rector, St. Luke's School came to Bustleton and he witnessed its departure in 1902. Mr. Hotchkin planned the fortieth anniversary of the parish in 1901. At this celebration, Bishop Coleman was the preacher and Mrs. Pauline E. Henry was in attendance. Rev. Mr. Hotchkin died on August 1, 1912. The mention of his name and deeds still creates reverence in the community in which he lived for a great number of years.

Rev. Frederick B. Keable, the seventh rector, served from 1909 to

1916. Under his forceful leadership, a vigorous interest in church work was instilled into the parish membership. There were also many improvements made in the physical equipment of the church property.

The eighth rector of St. Luke's Church and serving for the period from 1916 to 1924 was the Rev. William McClelland. It is significant to note that on June 2, 1939, the Rev. Mr. McClelland was consecrated to the office of Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, Maryland. During his rectorship at St. Luke's, the renovation of the chancel was completed. The woodwork, with the exception of the altar and canopy, was removed and new hand-carved furnishings were substituted therefor. These furnishings were made by Edward Maene, a noted woodcarver who lived in Bustleton and who desired to leave a specimen of his handiwork in the village. In 1924 the lot and building adjoining the hall were purchased. The building was used as a home for the sexton for many years and then demolished.

Rev. Paul Micou came to the parish as its ninth rector in November of 1924. Under his leadership, the task of enlargement and renovation of St. Luke's Hall was undertaken and completed. Rev. Mr. Micou devoted a great amount of time and effort to work among the young people of the parish. His resignation was effective in March of 1929 and he subsequently served for several years in the dioceses of Massachusetts and West Virginia.

On September 1, 1929, Rev. John W. Norris became the tenth rector of St. Luke's Church. Prior to this time, he had served as assistant minister of St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, for a term of four years. The economic depression which commenced shortly thereafter and continued for approximately eleven years was especially significant in the activities of all churches. St. Luke's Church was no exception. Any sketch of this church's history would be quite incomplete without a special tribute to Mr. Norris, who contributed his time and talents to the spiritual life and related activities of the church during these unpredictable years. He planned and supervised the seventy-fifth anniversary which was held during the week of October 18 to 25, 1936. On St. Luke's Day, October 18, 1936, the preacher at the Sunday morning service was the Rev. William McClelland, the rector of St. Luke's from 1916 to 1924.

A quotation taken from a letter dated October 30, 1940, prepared by the Rev. Arthur W. Farlander, rector of The Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa, California, and mailed to St. Luke's Church, will perhaps adequately describe the devoted rector of St. Luke's: "These few lines are sent to inform you how much I appreciate the work that your rector, The Rev. John W. Norris, has done on the new hymnal. If it had not been for his efforts at the General Convention, I doubt whether the report would have been accepted. What Mr. Norris has done must make us all forever grateful as in years to come we use the hymnal in church worship." It was with sincere reluctance the Vestry accepted the resignation of Mr. Norris, effective August 1, 1941. He accepted a call to become Superintendent of Lawrence Hall, Chicago, Illinois. He is presently the rector of St. Michael's Church, Brattleboro, Vermont.

The eleventh rector, The Rev. Louis E. Fifer, III, formerly of Grace Church, Hulmeville, Pennsylvania, assumed his official duties at St. Luke's on October 1, 1941. In December of 1941, the United States officially declared war on the countries of Germany and Japan. In the ensuing years, the thoughts of the members of St. Luke's Church naturally centered on the national emergency and its men and women who were serving in the armed forces. During this period a service flag and honor roll were placed in the church. This honor roll contained the names of the church members who had answered their call to the colors. It was during these uncertain years, that Mr. Fifer was called upon to lead the spiritual welfare of the church. He was instrumental in the organization of a youth canteen whose related activities were conducted in St. Luke's Hall. Although Mr. Fifer's rectorship was terminated by his resignation in April 1945, his stamp of devoted effort had been imprinted upon the advancement of this church. At the date of the preparation of this summary, he is the rector of All Hallow's Church, Wyncote, Pennsylvania.

Rev. John M. Weber became the twelfth rector on February 1, 1946, after serving for many years at St. James' Church, Hestonville, Philadelphia. During the intervening fifteen years of his rectorship from 1946 until the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary the following notable achievements were undertaken and completed:

(1) Complete demolishment of the old rectory in 1952 and erection of a new building at an approximate cost of $26,000.

(2) Repointing of the church edifice.

(3) Renovation and modernization of the organ.

The tremendous increase in new members and consequent related church activities through these years have resulted from the tireless efforts which have been contributed by Mr. Weber. As the rector who witnesses the

expiration of the first one hundred years, he is entitled to the highest commendation for his devotion to the parish and its activities.

Early in 1961 plans were made for a campaign to raise funds approximating $25,000, the major portion of which is to be used for the purpose of increasing the Sunday School facilities. This fund has been designated as the Centennial Fund.

As the present members of St. Luke's Church witness the expiration of one hundred years of existence, they will pause to pay tribute to Mrs. Henry for establishing a church as a memorial, to the twelve rectors who have served with toil and distinction, and to all who have assisted during the intervening years subsequent to 1861.

NOTE: The summary of the first hundred years was prepared and edited by ROBERT J. NICHOLS